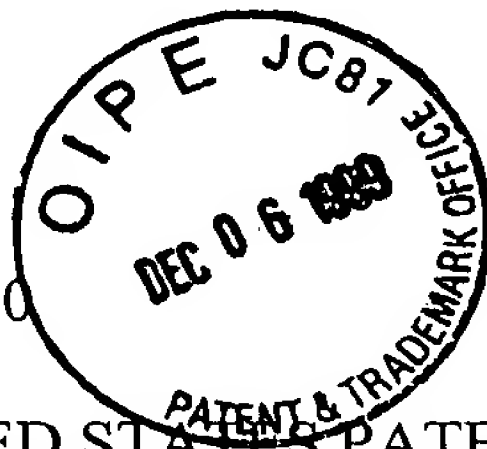


DOCKET NO.: 7063-0001-0



#12 12/12/99
(NE) T. Gray

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: : GROUP ART UNIT: 1645
Renata Maria Anna Cavaliere VESELY et al :
SERIAL NO.: 08/813,776 : EXAMINER: MINNIFIELD
FILED: March 7, 1997 :

FOR: STRAINS OF BACTERIA AND PHARMA- :
CEUTICAL COMPOSITION CONTAINING
ONE OR MORE OF SUCH STRAINS AND
USE OF SAME FOR PREVENTING AND
TREATING DISEASES ASSOCIATED WITH
OR CAUSED BY ALTERED METABOLISM
OF BILE ACIDS

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Responsive to the Official Action of August 4, 1999, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the withdrawal of all rejections other than the rejection of Claim 37 over Saito in light of Salvioli. While Applicant is willing to place dependent Claims 38-44 in independent allowable form, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of Claim 37, as this claim is patentably distinct from the teachings of the references.

In particular, present Claim 37 is limited to a gram-positive bacteria strain having certain activities and belonging to particular species. These species are *Streptococcus thermophilus* and *Lactobacillus bulgaricus*. See new Claim 37 presented with the last